TYPE I PROGRESS REPORT

a. A study to explore the use of orbital remote sensing to determine native arid plant distribution.

b. UN 613

c. No ERTS-1 data has as yet been received.

d. Eight desert vegetation sites were picked for intensive study along a 25 mile transect in the Avra Valley north of the Sierrita Mountains, an area west of Tucson, Arizona, Lat. 32° to 32°20' N, Long. 111°20' W. Sites with essentially uniform vegetation and environment at least 200 acres in area were selected.

Each site differed markedly from other sites in terms of plant species found, plant density, plant vigor, or soil type. Ground truth information, particularly seasonal change in vegetation and soil parameters, was obtained to coordinate with ERTS-1 overflights.

Ground truth data collection will be maintained and enhanced with aerial photography from low platforms.

Significant ground truth differences between sites will be correlated with differences found on ERTS-1 data when it is available.

e. Detectable differences between vegetation sites are evident from ground truth information and simulated ERTS photography. These differences may also be detectable from ERTS-1 data when it is available.

f. None

g. None

h. None

i. None

j. None

k. None